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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ: BIPARTISAN ETHICS PLAN A VICTORY FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS

SECRETARY OF THE STATE APPLAUDS SENATE PASSAGE OF ETHICS REFORM BILL

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz is applauding the State Senate for reaching a compromise and passing an ethics reform package.

“The people of Connecticut deserve comprehensive ethics reform on all levels and in every branch of government,” said Bysiewicz. “Today the State Senate took a major step forward in restoring the public’s trust in government by overwhelmingly passing this legislation. This is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem; this is a bipartisan challenge that requires a bipartisan solution. I want to thank the Senate President and the Minority Leader for working together to reach this compromise and I want to thank Senator Gayle Slossberg for consistently advocating on behalf of this important reform.”

In December, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal announced their joint plan to overhaul Connecticut’s ethics code for elected and public officials.

Their joint proposal focuses on 5 areas of reform:

- **Pension Revocation.** This law would revoke pension benefits of any state elected official or top appointee convicted of a crime related to their employment. This would

include embezzlement, bribery, and fraud. Such a penalty would serve as a powerful deterrent to the people in power.

- **Municipal Code of Ethics.** This proposal will require all municipalities to either establish a code of ethics for municipal elected officials or adopt a model code of municipal ethics promulgated by the Office of State Ethics.
- **False Claims Act.** Penalize contractors who defraud the state and municipalities by filing false claims and work orders. Contractors found guilty of defrauding the state could be fined and removed from the pool of state contractors.
- **Judicial Reform.** This law would prevent the judicial branch from sealing court cases involving prominent businessmen, politicians, and judges from the public.
- **Permanent Legislative Committee on Ethics.** In addition to the Office of State Ethics, create a permanent bipartisan committee to hold accountable fellow members of the state legislature. The committee would have the power to investigate the conduct of members of the legislature, issue subpoenas, and recommend reprimand, censure or expulsion to the legislature.

Secretary Bysiewicz has long advocated for comprehensive ethics reform. This legislative session she testified before the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the Judiciary Committee to register her continued support on these issues.